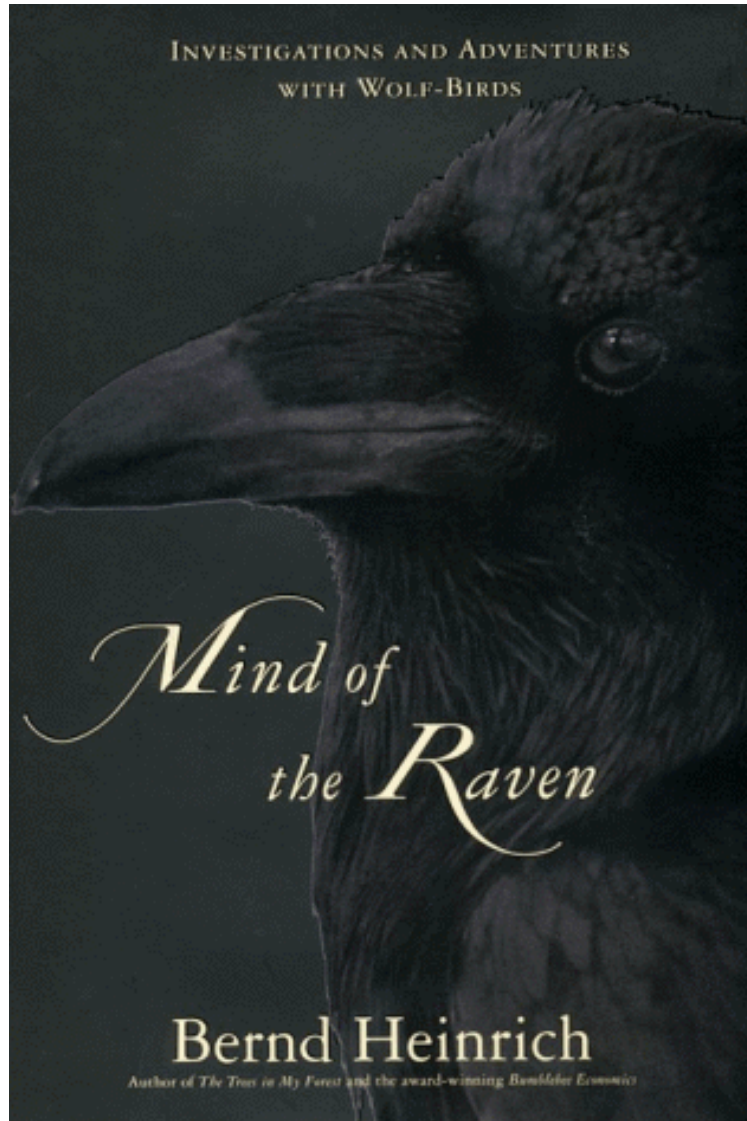


(Mobile ebook) Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds

# Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds

*Bernd Heinrich*

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**Bernd Heinrich : Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mind of the Raven: Investigations and Adventures with Wolf-Birds:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Very Good Read!By RayBAAn interesting winter's read, I did enjoy this book.Anyone interested in animal intelligence and behavior will no doubt enjoy reading this.The author is scientifically methodical in his methods and research, and reports what he's learned and observed in a lucid and

enjoyable style. Having been best friends with a wild bird for nineteen years, I was drawn to this book by its title. (A portrait of that remarkable and beloved friend hangs in a place of honor, in my living room today. RIP Bernie.) Ray B of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book about ravens By Kratze This was a really fascinating read. The author mostly tells stories about the ravens he raised over many years. I found it very easy to read and it left me with a new appreciation for corvids. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Marvelous Raven By Cardi corgi momma This book was terrific. The author scientifically has studied ravens around the world for years and is scientifically published also. Does that make it boring, NO. He has raised ravens, and observed them in depth, in an aviary and free. He can tell one from another and knows how to correctly interpret what ever they say. I found the book fascinating and enjoyed it greatly. If a reader is sensitive, the talk about collecting road kills, dead calves, etc. might be off putting. But if one is responsible for the care and feeding of any animals including birds, collecting the correct food is a joy, not a burden. I was fortunate in the past to house and feed young ravens once until they were ready for release on my rural property. After, a couple ravens went with my dogs and I on a 4 mile walk each afternoon. Several years after, two showed up with four hungry youngsters. I was thrilled. It was wonderful to learn more about these marvelous birds.

In *Mind of the Raven*, Bernd Heinrich, award - winning naturalist, finds himself dreaming of ravens and decides he must get to the truth about this animal reputed to be so intelligent. Much like a sleuth, Heinrich involves us in his quest, letting one clue lead to the next. But as animals can only be spied on by getting quite close Heinrich adopts ravens, thereby becoming a "raven father," as well as observing them in their natural habitat, studying their daily routines, and in the process painting a vivid picture of the world as lived by the ravens. At the heart of this book are Heinrich's love and respect for these complex and engaging creatures, and through his keen observation and analysis, we become their intimates too. Throughout history there has existed an extraordinary relationship between humans and ravens. Ravens, like early humans, are scavengers on the kills of great carnivores. As scavengers, ravens were associated with hunters they found in the north: wolves and, later, men. The trinity of wolf, man, and raven in the hunt is an extremely ancient one. In considering the appeal of the raven, Bernd Heinrich suspects that a meeting of the minds might reside in that hunting trinity. Heinrich's passion for ravens has led him around the world in his research. *Mind of the Raven* takes you on an exotic journey--from New England to Germany, Montana to Baffin Island in the high Arctic--offering dazzling accounts of how science works in the field, filtered through the eyes of a passionate observer of nature. Heinrich has a true gift; through his stories, his beautiful writing, illustrations, and photography, the ravens come alive. Each new discovery and insight into their behavior is thrilling to read. just as the title promises, the reader is given a rare glimpse into the mind of these wonderful creatures. Following the dictum of Leonardo da Vinci--"It is not enough to believe what you see. YOU Must also understand what you see"--Bernd Heinrich enables us to see the natural world through the eyes of a scientist. At once lyrical and scientific, *Mind of the Raven* is bound to be a modern classic.

.com Beyond croaking, "Nevermore," what exactly do ravens do all day? Bernd Heinrich, biology professor at the University of Vermont and author of *Ravens in Winter*, has spent more than a decade learning the secrets of these giants of the crow family. He has observed startlingly complex activities among ravens, including strong pair-bonding, use of tools, elaborate vocal communication, and even play. Ravens are just plain smart, and we can see much of ourselves in their behavior. They seem to be affectionate, cranky, joyful, greedy, and competitive, just like us. And in *Mind of the Raven*, Heinrich makes no bones about attributing emotions and intellect to *Corvus corax*--just not the kind we humans can understand. He mostly catalogs their behaviors in the manner of a respectful anthropologist, although a few moments of proud papa show through when he describes the pet ravens he hand-raised to adulthood. Heinrich spends hundreds of loving hours feeding roadkill fragments to endlessly hungry raven chicks, and cold days in blinds watching wild ravens squabble and frolic. He is a passionate fan of his "wolf-birds," a name he gave them when he made the central discovery of the book: that ravens in Yellowstone National Park are dependent on wolves to kill for them. *Mind of the Raven* offers inspiring insight into both the lives of ravens and the mind of a truly gifted scientist. --Therese Littleton From Publishers Weekly In a book that demonstrates the rewards of caring and careful observation of the natural world, Heinrich (*Ravens in Winter*, etc.), a noted biologist, Guggenheim fellow and National Book Award nominee (for *Bumblebee Economics*, 1979), explores the question of raven intelligence through observation, experiment and personal experience. Although he has raised many ravens through the years (beginning with a tame pair that shared his apartment at UCLA in the 1960s), Heinrich focuses much of his attention on four nestlings he adopted from the Maine woods near his home. As he describes tending to the demanding babies, chopping up roadkill, cleaning up after them and enduring their noisy calls for food, readers will marvel at how much Heinrich knows and at how much joy he derives from acquiring that knowledge. As the birds mature, Heinrich details how these and other ravens feed, nest, mate, play and establish a society with clear hierarchical levels. At its best, his writing is distinguished by infectious enthusiasm, a lighthearted style and often lyrical descriptions of the natural world. His powers of observation are impressive and his descriptions of how a raven puffs its feathers in a dominance display, of how a female calls for food from her mate, of the pecking order at a carcass are formidably precise.

Toward the end of the book, Heinrich addresses the question implied by the title: To what degree can ravens be said to think? His answer: "I suspect that the great gulf or discontinuity that exists between us and all other animals is... ultimately less a matter of consciousness than of culture." Illustrations. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal YA-Heinrich's adventures with ravens are consistently interesting and illuminating, whether he's crouching for hours in cold rain to observe them, hauling animal carcasses into the woods to attract them, or visiting in the homes of their human companions. In 29 readable and richly illustrated chapters, he shares his own experiences with the birds as well as many anecdotes collected by observers from around the globe. He explores "the possibility of conscious choice" in these obviously intelligent but often baffling birds, and believes they owe much of their complexity to the fact that they have evolved in close association with dangerous carnivores-wolves and men. Looking at the common fear that ravens damage crops, Heinrich asserts they have been unjustly accused and persecuted by farmers, and he studies firsthand the relationship of ravens with Eskimo hunters. Sometimes the research just leads him from one mystery to another, but wherever his questions take him, the journey is always fascinating as the many layers of raven psychology are revealed. Perhaps best known on this continent for its "trickster" talents, the raven has been associated in Europe with divination, death, and the Norse god Odin. Heinrich's perspective, that of the scientist, is just as compelling for modern readers and does full justice to this bird's mythical reputation. A fine, entertaining book for general readers, as well as an excellent resource for those seeking meticulously gathered and documented scientific information. Christine C. Menefee, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.